

H.R. 1009. An act for the relief of Lloyd B. Gamble; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 1483. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2765. An act for the relief of Rocco A. Trecoasta; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 3373. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain veterans' benefits programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution to congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of its first direct and democratic presidential election and the inauguration of its president; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 160. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the success of their recent democratic multiparty elections; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following measure was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

S. 1788. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act to repeal those provisions of Federal law that require employees to pay union dues or fees as a condition of employment, and for other purposes.

The following concurrent resolutions were read and placed on the calendar:

H. Con. Res. 165. Concurrent resolution saluting and congratulating Polish people around the world as, on May 3, 1996, they commemorate the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

David D. Spears, of Kansas, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the term expiring April 13, 2000.

Brooksley Elizabeth Born, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Brooksley Elizabeth Born, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for the remainder of the term expiring April 13, 1999.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. BOND, from the Committee on Small Business:

Ginger Ehn Lew, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1789. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to deny the payment of Social Security and supplemental security income benefits to prisoners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. McCONNELL:

S. 1790. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to increase the penalties for the manufacture, distribution, and possession of marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1791. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 1996, the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of such veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mr. CHAFFEE):

S. 1792. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow companies to donate scientific equipment to elementary and secondary schools for use in their educational programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 1793. A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the requirements relating to making imported articles and containers apply to fresh cut flowers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1794. A bill to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the forfeiture of retirement benefits in the case of any Member of Congress, congressional employee, or Federal justice or judge who is convicted of an offense relating to official duties of that individual, and for the forfeiture of the retirement allowance of the President for such a conviction; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROTH:

S. 1795. A bill to restore the American family, enhance support and work opportunities for families with children, reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies, reduce welfare dependence by requiring work, meet the health care needs of America's most vulnerable citizens, control welfare and medicaid spending, and increase State flexibility; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1789. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to deny the payment of Social Security and supplemental security income benefits to prisoners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

THE PREVENTION OF PRISONER DOUBLE-DIPPING ACT

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, a less formal but somewhat more revealing title for this bill would be "The Prevention of Prisoner Double-Dipping Act." A rose by any other name is still a rose and this bill is a winner by any name. It will save millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money and it will put a stop to the injustice of paying scarce Social Security disability benefits to prisoners charged with a felony who have been in jail for 30 or more days awaiting trial.

Current law prohibits payment of disability benefits to anyone in jail after conviction for a felony. A loophole permits prisoners to continue receiving benefits despite the fact that they are in jail if they have not yet been convicted of the crime charged. This bill will close that loophole.

Mr. President, I learned that prisoners are continuing to receive these benefits when Sheriff Mike Joyce of Stokes County, NC, wrote me earlier this year about it. Sheriff Joyce wrote to me about Earl Blevins, a career criminal and convicted murderer, who has been in Stokes County jail since December 16, 1995, awaiting trial on charges of larceny and breaking and entering. Incredibly, Blevins has been receiving disability payments since 1988, even though as Sheriff Joyce stated, Blevins obviously is healthy enough "to run from a bloodhound and hide up under leaves under a tree."

Until last month, when Blevins was convicted of unrelated felony charges in Surry County, he was receiving \$450 per month in disability payments while Stokes County taxpayers were picking up the tab for his room and board and other care.

Mr. President, Sheriff Mike Joyce is a fine law enforcement officer. His outrage about the Federal Government's paying prisoner Blevins \$450 per month in Social Security disability benefits while he is in jail awaiting trial on yet another felony charge, will be matched by the outrage of the public at large once they learn about it.

The point is this: Earl Blevins and other career criminals prey on law-abiding citizens. When they are apprehended, their food, clothing, shelter, and often their legal fees are paid for by the very citizens whom the criminals have victimized. It is unwarranted salt rubbed in the taxpayer's wounds that these predators are allowed by law to collect disability benefits while awaiting trial. This bill will change that law.

The purpose of Social Security disability payments is to provide a minimum income to beneficiaries in order to insure that they have access to food and shelter. A prisoner awaiting trial is already being provided these needs and the taxpayers are paying the bill. Prisoners should not be allowed to "double-dip" into the pocket of taxpayers.